

Serial No.: 10/625,171
Amdt. Dated: September 29, 2006
Reply to Office action of June 29, 2006

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a polymer film comprising an ultra-high barrier coating; and
a fixture comprising at least one inner member and at least one outer member, wherein said at least one inner member and said at least one outer member are configured to secure said film therebetween.
2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polymers and thermoset polymers.
3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic polymers are selected from the group consisting of polycarbonates, polyesters, polyesterarbonates, polyamides, polyimides, polyolefins, polyphenylene ethers, polyamideimides, polyethersulfones, polyacrylates, styrenic polymers, silicones, epoxy resins, silicone-functionalized epoxy-resins, copolymers, derivatives, and blends thereof.
4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polybutylene terephthalate; polyethylene terephthalate; styrene-acrylonitrile copolymer; styrene-methacrylonitrile copolymer; acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer; acrylonitrile-alpha-methylstyrene-butadiene copolymer; polyarylate copolymers comprising repeating derived from isophthalic acid, terephthalic acid, resorcinol, and bisphenol A; polycarbonates comprising repeating units derived from at least one of bisphenol A, 1,3-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-methyl-4-isopropylcyclohexane, and 2,8-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-methyl-4-isopropylcyclohexane; and blends of the foregoing polymers.
5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said film and said at least one inner member and said at least one outer member comprise the same material.

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6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said polymer film and said at least one inner member and said at least one outer member have substantially the same thermal properties.
7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least one inner member and said at least one outer member comprises one of at least one mask portion and at least one aperture portion.
8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises an interface member, wherein said interface member is disposed between said at least one inner member and said at least one outer member.
9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein one of said at least one inner member and said at least one outer member is edge-contoured.
10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the inner side of said at least one outer member and the outer side of said at least one inner member contacting said film have rounded corners.
- 11-16 (Cancelled)
17. (Withdrawn) A method for securing a plastic film, said method comprising:
disposing said film between at least one inner member and at least one outer member of a fixture; and
moving at least one of said at least one inner member and said at least one outer member toward the other member to secure said film therebetween.
18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein said at least one inner member and said at least one outer member are maintained at a temperature selected from the group consisting of sub-ambient temperature, ambient temperature, and above-ambient temperature.

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19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein said film comprises material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polymers, and thermoset polymers.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 19, wherein said thermoplastic polymers are selected from the group consisting of polycarbonates, polyesters, polyesterarbonates, polyamides, polyimides, polyolefins, polyphenylene ethers, polyamideimides, polyethersulfones, polyacrylates, styrenic polymers, silicones, epoxy resins, silicone-functionalized epoxy-resins, copolymers, derivatives, and blends thereof.

21. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein said thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polybutylene terephthalate; polyethylene terephthalate; styrene-acrylonitrile copolymer; styrene-methacrylonitrile copolymer; acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer; acrylonitrile-alpha-methylstyrene-butadiene copolymer; polyarylate copolymers comprising repeating derived from isophthalic acid, terephthalic acid, resorcinol, and bisphenol A; polycarbonates comprising repeating units derived from at least one of bisphenol A, 1,3-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-methyl-4-isopropylcyclohexane, and 2,8-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-methyl-4-isopropylcyclohexane; and blends of the foregoing polymers.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a processed film, said method comprising:

disposing a film between at least one inner member and at least one outer member of a fixture;

moving at least one of said at least one inner member and said at least one outer member toward the other member to secure said film therebetween to produce a secured film;

exposing said secured film to at least one processing step to produce a processed film; and

moving apart said at least one inner member and said at least one outer member to release said processed film from said fixture.

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23. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 22, wherein said processing step is selected from the group consisting of coating, thermal treatment, radiation treatment, patterning, and depositing.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 23, wherein said coating is selected from the group consisting of chemical vapor deposition, physical vapor deposition, powder coating, spin coating, and spray coating.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 22, wherein said radiation treatment comprises irradiating said secured film with a radiation selected from the group consisting of electron beam, ion beam, ultraviolet light, visible light and infrared light radiation.

26. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a processed article comprising a processed film, said method comprising:

disposing said processed film between at least one inner member and at least one outer member of a fixture;

moving at least one of said at least one inner member and said at least one outer member toward the other member to secure said film therebetween to produce a secured processed film;

disposing an article on said secured processed film to produce a processed article; and

moving apart said at least one inner member and said at least one outer member to release said processed article.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 26, wherein said processed film, said at least one inner member, and said at least one outer member have substantially the same thermal properties.

28-30 (Cancelled)

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31. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said ultra-high barrier coating is a multilayer barrier coating.
32. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said ultra-high barrier coating is a hybrid inorganic/organic barrier coating.